

THE BOSTON WEEKLY GLOBE.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1888

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the present stage of proceedings the people are simply watching the combinations on the board with great curiosity, and not a little anxiety. The average social observer of intelligence is not yet ready to believe that it is possible to so organize "combinations" as to overcome the natural instinct in the individual to paddle his own canoe. If it is so possible, through enormous aggregations of capital, aided by immovable monopolies, it will be the most astonishing and momentous fact that society has yet had to confront.

Nature has, however, a silent way of rendering things too heavy that moves her normal order. The iceberg moves silently on till suddenly it finds its lofty head too big for its body and then tumbles over ingloriously. We are inclined to believe that the trust business is bound to collapse of top-heaviness in the long run and die of "big head" in one form or another. If not, then human nature and the persistent instinct of individual incentive have been falsely estimated.

None the less, however, legal legislation be appealed to where practicable to head off an order of things which, if it continues to make successful headway, will yet find competition completely mowed under as the saving regulator of prices. In that case the beneficent law of supply and demand would become a mere fiction and the scanty mercy of enthroned greed the supreme law.

But a free people with a free ballot will never permit the trusts to go too far in violation of the natural order of trade and social reciprocity.

THE REFUND OF THE DIRECT TAX.

The country has just witnessed one of the worst and most unwarranted cases of filibustering on record. It occurred upon the bill now pending in the Fifty-fifth Congress for refunding the direct tax.

The bill arose from the following circumstances: In 1861, when the rebellion was just on, and when the national treasury was in sore need, Congress levied and apportioned upon the several States and Territories a direct tax of \$20,000,000. In some States this tax was collected directly from individuals by the United States authorities. Some States, like Massachusetts, assumed the tax, and paid over the amount of it, 15 per cent, which was allowed for assuming and paying it. In Virginia, Arkansas, South Carolina and the other rebel States, which paid their share, the debt incurred and the bonds given in raising the money to pay it still remain, and are a charge upon the people of those States. The amount levied on Massachusetts was \$284,481.33, which she promptly and loyally paid less the 15 per cent, allowed her. South Carolina has repaid. Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin and Washington Territory still owe a balance. Utah has never paid. The amount collected is \$17,859,985.51. The amount still unpaid is \$2,940,314.49, or more than one-eighth.

All taxes, especially all special and extraordinary taxes, are unpopular. But this particular tax has been especially unpopular, because, unlike any other, it has been paid by some and avoided by others. This is so manifest an inequality and injustice, that some adjustment has long been recognized as necessary. Such an adjustment is possible in only one of two ways. Either those States which have not paid their apportionment should do so, or to those who have paid their apportionment, it should be returned. It would seem that no fair proposition could be stated. Of these alternatives, the former is of course least desirable, for two reasons. First, there is already a surplus in the treasury and more money is not needed. Second, inasmuch as there is no need of money, it would be a gratuitous hardship on Mississippi, Alabama, Virginia, and the other States now recovering from the disasters of the war to put the tax-collector on their backs, when there is an easier way of adjusting the matter.

For these reasons the Senate passed the bill to refund the direct tax to those who had paid it, by an almost unanimous vote, there being only 10 dissenting votes. For the same reasons the judiciary committee of the House reported it favorably, only three of its 15 members dissenting. There is not the slightest pretence that they reported it with any view of depleting the surplus, and thus indirectly aiding to the necessity of a continuance of the present tariff revenue. In proof of this is the fact that nine members of that committee are Democrats, who will probably all vote for the Mills bill, and only six are Republicans, of whom one from Iowa is by no means much of a protectionist. It is a further fact that the committee on rules, by unanimous vote of all its members present, including Mr. CARLISLE, assigned a special day for the consideration of this direct tax bill, thus giving it precedence. And it is stated that Mr. CARLISLE himself drew the report making this assignment.

It is difficult to see how any fair mind can object to such a plain bill. To find the objections one naturally turns to the views of the three minority members of the House judiciary committee. They are, it is first noticed, from the States of Alabama, Georgia and Arkansas. In the first two of which so little of the tax was collected that, under the refunding bill, very little would go back to them. Their main objection is that the bill is calculated to diminish the surplus, an objection which has been already referred to, and which is of very little consequence compared with the question whether the bill is just. The next objection is the constitutional one, which is hardly serious or worth considering, and which is usually resorted to when other reasons fail. Further objection to the bill is that it is to be situated in the hands of the producers of the great food staples literally "takes the cake." So long as the realm of trusts is confined to speculators and treacherous operators, now and then a CLAUS SPECTER, controlling an annual sugar output of \$50,000,000, will find the "combine" by preferring to sell under his own colors. But when the trust gets back to the plough and the grub hoe it roots itself in terra firma and hits below the belt.

We have fallen upon strange times. Competition has always been regarded as the life of trade—the consumer's safety valve against the dangerous pressure of monopoly. To the monopolist competition is naturally the death of trade, such as he contemplates; hence the "Trust." Serious indeed it becomes when it seizes upon the very roots of production in the soil.

Political economy will have to be reconstructed when associated articles shall have demonstrated that it is possible to de-throne competition, the consumer's ark of safety. But before this revolution in the factors of trade shall have been accomplished legislation in behalf of the common welfare will doubtless lay a strong hand upon the situation. At

life? There is a motive behind all this talk which the American people are anxious to discover.

If this BLAINE controversy continues we may soon expect to see a bulletin issued from Augusta something like the following: I hereby certify that I examined Mr. BLAINE prior to his departure for Europe and have found his political rule (or mail) doses of time since he went away, and I can pronounce him *mens sana in corpore sano*. JOSEPH H. MANLEY, Chairman.

This will settle the controversy for a time. Then, if any person presumes to return from Europe with a story about Mr. BLAINE's bad condition, the party managers may by a little wire pulling procure the following:

By my princely honor I affirm that I met Mr. BLAINE when I was in America 30 years ago and again last summer, and I can aver upon my faith that he looked stronger and better in the latter case than he did on the former. He is growing more youthful every day. I wonder his folks do not put him in short clothes.

ALBERT EDWARD, Prince of Wales, etc., etc.

If this does not work there is Hon. ANDREW CARNEGIE still in reserve, who will gladly certify to his health, and perhaps Buffalo Bill could be induced to lend his name to so worthy a cause.

In all this crush of doctors' certificates it is not to be forgotten that Mr. CLAYTON, Mr. DREW, who was also abroad, a little daily record of BLAINE's pulse, temperature and respiration, signed by the president of the New York Central, would say much to distrust. A similar confession of faith in BLAINE's soundness from Senator JOHN SHERMAN would also be agreeable just now. In case they do not come forward right away we shall think that BLAINE is still a candidate.

The trusts must be broken if we don't want them to break the country.

The late Sultan of Zanzibar left 27 wives and 232 children. No wonder he left them.

There are 8000 characters in the Japanese alphabet. Learning your A B C's in that country is no child's play.

If Mr. GOULD never knew before he is being deceived he does not know how to get things. And the unanimity of public opinion no doubt survives him.

The bill of JACOB SHARP's lawyers was as long as the Declaration of Independence. Their intentions were good, and they feel as if they should be paid accordingly.

Novelist GEORGE W. CARLE's advice to the colored people to be summed up in two words: "Behave yourselves." And very good advice, too, for white or black.

New York: Mr. STANTON is much more like a man to be working for than from just expulsion from the Senate than he is to be a candidate for the presidency.

The will of JOHN ROACH directs that his body shall be buried in a new tomb 10 years after his death. Mr. ROACH evidently believed that the ship-building interests were going into a decline.

What with "soothing syrups" and "infants' friends" the little ones have a hard struggle for life. It is said that one preparation alone annually "soothes" over 150,000 British babies into their last long sleep.

The failure of the one-famous "American Exchange," with liabilities of over \$4,000,000, shows that the average American tourist, with an ample letter of credit in his pocket, can get along very well without an "exchange."

The New York Star facetiously calls SUSAN B. ANTHONY "the Joshua of woman's rights." Our twinkling contemporary Yare, Josiah, rather than the sun to stand still, and SUSAN may work a miracle on the Star.

The exposition building at St. Louis, where the Democratic national convention is to be held, will seat 11,000 persons. Can any one figure out the size of the yell which will be uttered when the name of President CLEVELAND is mentioned?

According to the report of the superintendent of public schools in New York city, nearly 10,000 children were refused admission to the schools last year for lack of room. Mr. McElhenny, who was the only jailer who had better build more schools.

The Florida cattle thieves had their choice between leaving the country the best way they could, or being hanged by the neck of a rope halter. Naturally they chose the former alternative. Life is sweet, even to a thief. Florida citizens should ask them a harder one.

MARC ANTHONY, who is in the grocery business at Atlanta, Ga., is no relation to the famous one. He is a native of New York. SUSAN B. is believed to be the only surviving child of that great politician, though some traditions say that she was his sister, not his daughter.

Mr. POWDERLY says some severe things of those Knights of Labor who have taken the places of brotherhood engineers on the New York Central. He says that the latter was not equally severe with the brotherhood engineers who took the place of the knights on the Reading.

Bishop COXE of the Protestant Episcopal Church is preaching in New York in favor of the union of all Christian denominations into one church. But, like many others of his faith, he is wholly unable to explain why he thinks that his church should be one to absorb all the others. And there's the rub.

Record: Mr. GLADSTONE will soon move an amendment to the budget in favor of equalizing the death duties. Over in part of the world death duties seem to be the only thing that is not a burden on the gentleman with the scythe mows as well as a farmer. But England always did have some queer customs.

New York Herald: New James BLAINE is deeply grieved. "Of what makes his head so sore." "The State of Maine is a very curious country. Science he'll find all unavailing." For his name in nomination.

Senator HAWLEY's presidential prospects are not much improved by the collapse of the American Exchange, of which he was president. Nobody charges Senator Hawley with any fraudulent act or intent, but the fact is that he is a very poor politician in this case that the people will hardly regard him as a fit subject for promotion to a higher one. Thus another factor is eliminated from the political problem.

Senator STANTON of California is spending a fortune on an elegant and massive tomb for his own particular use when his time shall come. He is to be buried in the city of the dead, just outside of San Francisco, where it will be a conspicuous and pleasant reminder to him. Every man to his taste, but a \$1,000,000 tomb on a man of the color of the earth is a very bad thing. It is a bad thing to have a man's name on a tombstone, and it is a bad thing to have a man's name on a tombstone.

Washington correspondence of the Waterbury American: You have heard me say that I have found no less than 13 members of Congress who are practically Henry GEORGE men. Some of them do not so acknowledge it; but I publicly charged with holding to GEORGE's theories; but in private life they readily acknowledge that they think his conclusions on the land question are correct.

It is announced that Prince ALEXANDER and Princess VICTORIA are to be betrothed next June. "Which shows how different are German customs from ours," says a certain person. "When a young couple make up their minds to be betrothed they are betrothed, and nothing but the death of the man's foot put down can undo it. In our country, however, they wait for the young people are actually 'engaged' would not be a popular institution in this country.

THE WOMAN'S HOUR.

Bee Culture as a Pursuit for Women.

Interesting Facts from the Experience of One Who Has Tried It.

Just What to Do, How to Do It, and the Cost.

The subject of bee culture, which until a few years ago absorbed only the interest of a few naturalists, is now constantly drawing attention to itself everywhere and deservedly so, since it is one of the most profitable and healthful pursuits in which any one can engage. In the words of "The American Apiculturist," a thoroughly manly and independent monthly: "There is no study in the vast and wonderful resources of nature, except it be that of man, that presents more food for the intellectual mind than does apiculture, and they who enter into this study with souls thirsting for knowledge will find that the work of the infinite Creator, must be lifted above all that is degrading and become better men and women."

One very important consideration in regard to it is that it is suited to country and city, to young and old, to rich and poor, to men and women, to those who only see the practical and money-making points in the pursuit, and also to the scientist, who finds in the study of the life and habits of the stings of the bee one of the peculiarities of nature, and who is ever ready to find in the work of the infinite Creator, must be lifted above all that is degrading and become better men and women."

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The Young People's History of the United States.

President Martin Van Buren's Administration.

The Effort to Follow in Jackson's Footsteps.

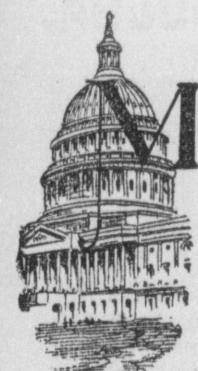
The Great Commercial Crisis of 1837.

How the New Era of Railroads Was Opened.

(CONTINUED, APRIL, 1888, BY THE GLOBE NEWSPAPER COMPANY.)

CHAPTER XIII.

[WRITTEN BY GEORGE ALFRED TOWNSEND.]



ANY administration presents more picturesque incidents than that of Martin Van Buren. But to the thinking man, and one willing to rectify a personal estimate by the light of great events, this short administration is full of meat.

Mr. Van Buren was in the North who perceived the necessity to reach the presidency subsequently to Mr. Jefferson. We may eliminate all the presidents between as managing politicians, and consider them as successors to other presidents or as military favorites. Van Buren, however, was the first perfect skilful Northern man in the game of politics, and it is rather curious that he should have been of Dutch blood, nearly pure, if not quite so.

The Dutch, however, had a fondness for popular politics, as was repeatedly shown in their home history as a series of united commercial republics and in the popular or Levantine revolution which took place in New York about 200 years ago, and which left its traces on the political history of New York society down to the American revolution. Mr. Van Buren had the great requisites of a popular politician in his good humor and politeness, and his social aspirations were probably greater than his political zeal. He therefore fell between the two stools of a fine demagogue and a patriotic gentleman to end with. That public he had catered to was not willing to tolerate his superior manners, and, at last, opinion was worked up against him by the silly recitation of his number of spoons, napkins and gossamer silverware. He thus perished from the error of his beginning.

But there was nothing about him which was unwholesome or unbecoming. He was not like Mr. Jefferson, protesting by his Maker that his motives had always been the purest. He was a good, bright citizen of the world, and one of the first capable men in the North who perceived the necessity to reach the presidency subsequently to Mr. Jefferson. We may eliminate all the presidents between as managing politicians, and consider them as successors to other presidents or as military favorites. Van Buren, however, was the first perfect skilful Northern man in the game of politics, and it is rather curious that he should have been of Dutch blood, nearly pure, if not quite so.

Van Buren had been elected by a very large majority, receiving 167 electoral votes to 73 for General Harrison, 26 for General Jackson's State rival, Hugh L. White, 14 votes for Daniel Webster, and 11 votes for the influence of Kent and Jay, and the highest of men in New York he had evinced in the New York constitutional convention of 1821 the striking down of all restrictions upon the suffrage. Prior to that time there had been a property qualification for the electors, and he looked back at the faith of his simple origin; he looked back at his humble parentage and plain family connection and raised in his ideal the virtues of the American citizen by the real, as the patriotic talents of the educated patron and college graduate.

But to give a condensed idea of Van Buren's administration, let us show that the student of the United States history, the first of the poor men who had ever gotten so high, rising at his chair near the close of January, 1837, to say:

"Senators, the period is at hand which is to terminate the office of President Jackson. He existed between us, and leave, probably never to return to it, a body with which I have been long connected. . . . As an American citizen devotedly attached to the institutions of my country, I must always regard with becoming and sincere respect a branch of our government invested with such extensive powers and designed by our forefathers to accomplish such important results (as the Senate).

As Vice President Van Buren retired, the Senate elected to his place Mr. King of Alabama, who became nearly 20 years afterward that consumptive vice president who was unable to take the seat. Mr. Benton of Missouri, the intimate partisan of the incoming president, then proposed a vote of respect and personal kindness to him. Mr. King, being now in the United States, replied that this required unanimous consent. Thereupon John C. Calhoun objected.

Mr. Van Buren had reached the vice-presidency in spite of the hate of Mr. Calhoun, who had preceded him in that same office. At this lapse of time we may reflect upon the want of ordinary wisdom in a man of Calhoun's social pretensions who should differ solely from the whole Senate as to a matter of mere personal feeling. But Calhoun had been a victim of the presidential fever too fatally to have any regard for his complacency in history or any patriotic remorse. He especially hated that kind of personality in the New York vice president which never became enraged and looked upon the conflicts of public life as the fair card player would look upon the turn of hands.

to Tennessee by coach. His cabinet, with one exception, was continued by Mr. Van Buren. Joel R. Poinsett, a Union man of South Carolina, was made secretary of war in order to assure that State that General Jackson's disgust at the recent nullification would be the law of Van Buren's term.

The misfortune of Van Buren were attributable to the want of statesmanship in his military predecessor, who, not content with the Calhoun quarrel on his hands, picked an issue with the United States

dency, and the Jacksonites, who had been retained by him, such as Francis Pickens, the editor, were allowed to shift for themselves, and Folk carried off the presidential nomination in 1844, when Mr. Van Buren made a gallant effort to restore his fortunes, after he had been defeated by President Harrison. The strife between Van Buren and Calhoun lasted nearly a generation.

Except for his youthful passion for Mr. Jefferson's principles, it seems probable that Van Buren would have made a rather



PRESIDENT VAN BUREN.

bank, which had been chartered in Washington's administration and chartered again by President Madison. Jackson was hostile to Madison and friendly to Monroe, whom he had almost persuaded to contest the presidency with Madison, but without avail. Jackson, who commanded his fellow-citizens to stay on their own side of the border.

Thus he lost all the possible prestige of military fortitude, which he had obtained during the second war with England when he was in the New York State Legislature.

The panic of 1837 was the first general panic in the history of the United States, and it was the sweeping victory of Harrison over Van Buren; it also brought out the unsoundness of the institution of slavery as an economical factor, since the price

Federalistic administration. When the Canadian, during his term, revolted against the British government and relied principally upon the State of New York for aid and comfort, Van Buren, like Washington's administration in the case of France, issued a proclamation of neutrality, and commanded his fellow-citizens to stay on their own side of the border.

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CARRYING VAN BUREN'S MESSAGE TO BALTIMORE.

land the United States had much increased and had greatly extended its credit, whilst the various States in the Union, under the pressure of public improvements or slavery, had become reckless, and after the removal of the national deposits from the United States bank by President Jackson the State banks received the public money lent them carelessly as official depositories, which could not meet the government checks upon these deposits. Hence, when a panic broke out, just after Van Buren's accession, it embarrassed the government itself, which could not pay its own official checks.

Van Buren was either so honestly attached to the example of Jackson, or so tied up in a politician's promises to carry out his mes-

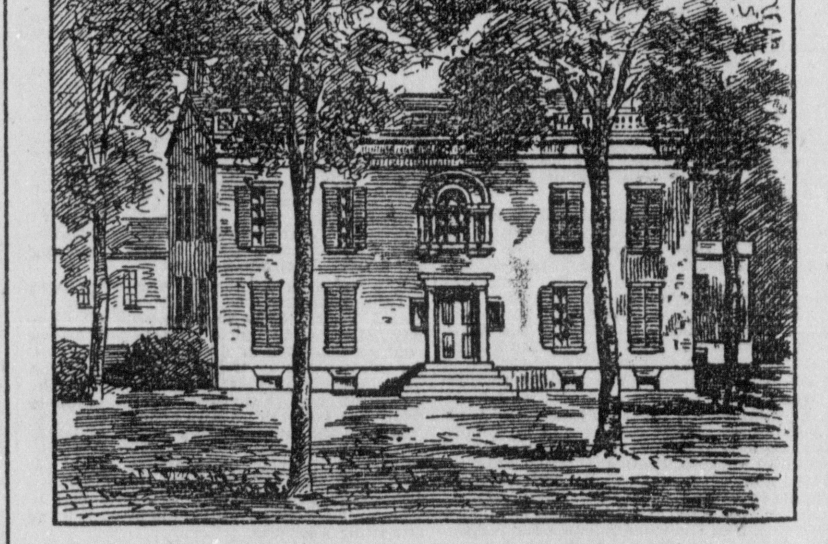
sage of slaves was continually going higher and yet the general interests of slavery decayed everywhere. This led to the complaint on the part of the South that the course of legislation had favored the North at the expense, whereas the influence of the Federal revolution had been to make the Europeans adherents of the American system of government, but not of the slave portion of it. Therefore, the ever-rolling human forces toward America "cut" the South, except in the direction of New Orleans. In 1839 there were about 81,000 emigrants to America, and of these nearly 60,000 landed at New York; only 328 came to Charleston; to Virginia went about 330, only Baltimore and New Orleans received

any considerable number of these strangers, and those ports were chosen because they afforded ingress to the free part of the continent.

After the panic of 1837 emigration fell off 80 per cent, and still New York got 25,000 strangers while Charleston got none. By 1839 the aggregate had gone up to 75,000, and of these New York and Boston got over 60,000. During the years of Van Buren's presidency about 310,000 emigrants came to the United States. The population of the republic was above 15,000,000. New York led all the States and had more than 2,000,000 people.

Some of the news features of Van Buren's day will not be uninteresting.

Whilst he was president Boston ran up to some 100,000 people and nearly \$100,000,000 of valuation, and was about half the size and wealth of Massachusetts.



PRESIDENT VAN BUREN'S HOME.

ures, that he would not or dared not restore the United States bank or any similar adjunct of the government. He proposed instead that the government should be a bank to itself, with its own depositories. He probably had not made a study of any system of banking except as a smart lawyer and student of public opinion.

His reliance upon President Jackson was also ineffective, for before the end of his administration Jackson had become excited over an attempt in the State of Tennessee by the friends of Hugh L. White to put that State into the White man, and he therefore abetted the ambition of James K. Polk to be president, whilst Mr. Polk was, at bottom, the presidential protégé of the revengeful Calhoun. In short, President Van Buren was a man who had been in his carriage to the railroad station, and went thence to Frederick City, Md., and on

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King Louis Philippe was giving a grand dinner to Lewis Cass, who wrote his life, and who was the first of Van Buren's friends, and who in turn was broken up after he received the presidential nomination in 1848 by Van Buren himself, who turned out to be a more tremendous character in respect to his political life than Van Buren was Van Buren's secretary of the treasury. After the panic the editor of the *Niles Register* remarked:

"Amidst all the madness and folly which have hurried the country to the present crisis we have seen nothing which transcends the infatuation which prompted the order of the secretary of the treasury to exclude the notes of his own financial agents in payment for duties and bonds due to the government, by which he virtually proclaimed his doubt of their solvency, and confirmed the distrust which was seizing upon the public mind."

All kinds of shipwrecks were in vogue during 1837, such hotels as the Astor House, New York, issuing them for 25-cent meals.

The same year the Legislature of Mississippi resolved that "the annexation of Texas to this republic is essential to the future safety and peace of the Southern States of this Confederacy." Calhoun was stirring up all the mischief he could as long as Van Buren was in office.

Amos Kendall, who was Van Buren's postmaster general, wrote a letter in response to an invitation to dine on the Fourth of July, saying:

"Our money is reduced to rags, every day becoming more worthless, that a few persons may maintain their credit abroad by shipping out silver and gold, having forced in payment of their debts, and by depreciating its paper associate from 10 to 40 per cent, almost at a blow."

The error of the Jackson and Van Buren combination was attempting to have no other currency but gold and silver, and general Jackson thought credit was a crime and banking robbery.

John Quincy Adams, who had retired from the presidency in humiliation eight years before Van Buren came in, wrote to the *Boston Courier* in 1837:

"Public opinion is more than ever the queen of the world. We are now in the midst of a national bankruptcy occasioned by the insolvency of multitudes of individuals. What is the suspension of specie payments but setting the laws of property at defiance? The Congress of the United States should exercise its powers to regulate the currency, but they must do this without consulting banks, their presidents and directors. A convention of broken bank presidents and directors to enlighten Congress would be a far more useful thing than a convention to teach Congress reverence for the obligation of contracts and how to make nothing but gold and silver a tender for the payments of debts. All the remedies for the present crisis are in the hands of the people."

Mr. Adams intimated that another war would be necessary to work out the bankruptcy of the country in 1812, and in about 20 years it came.

Nicholas Biddle, whom President Jackson had quarreled with as the manager of the United States Bank, made a speech at the opening of the Baltimore and Annapolis railroad in 1837. The railroad system took its rise in Van Buren's administration, and became a more wholesome power to govern the country than all the politicians who had preceded it.

The governor of Illinois, whose name was Duncan, made a message to his Legislature, of which Abraham Lincoln was a leading member, saying:

"At the time the president of the United States (Jackson) ordered the public money to be removed from the bank for the purpose, as he avowed, of preventing the recharter of that institution by Congress, there never was a sounder currency or a more healthy state of things in any government in the world. To effect this great object, namely, that of destroying the United States Bank, rival institutions were to be created. Immediately after the removal of the deposits, the government party commenced establishing State banks, while State Legislatures, tickled by the federal promises and advantages derived from the deposits to be made in these institutions, which were to be the fiscal agents of the government, readily fell into the measure. Hundreds of new banks instantly sprang up. The enormous amount of irredeemable paper advanced the inducement of universal extravagant speculation, and gave us what all must now regard as a depraved and worthless currency. As well might the executive of the United States expect to compel the citizens of the great valley to abandon the use of steamboats and resume the flat bottom and barge, as to force them to give up a sound paper currency at all times convertible into specie. I opposed the establishment of the State Bank of Illinois and that of the bank at Shawneetown, both of which have now stopped paying their notes in specie, etc."

The governor then proceeds to denounce the people transferring their powers to ignorant presidents, intimating that General Jackson was one of these.

"There must be change," he says, "there must be reform. The public treasury must be again firmly placed in the custody of law and all authority and control over it by the executive of the United States must be re-estimated. The control over the public and Congress which has been so powerfully exercised by the appointment of newspaper editors and members to high and lucrative offices by the executive should also be abolished."

At this time Texas was an independent republic, with a tariff of a dollar a hundred pounds on codfish and 25 cents a gallon on whiskey and 15 per cent ad valorem on the rest of the goods. The tariff was a further feather on the slave upon the shoulders of the North, and the tariff was coming to be the great issue and next instalment of relief for slavery.

Mr. Van Buren was ultimately decoyed into writing a letter opposing this admission as a further feather on the slave upon the shoulders of the North, and thus he lost his renomination in 1844 by the application of the two-thirds rule in the convention.

In short, through Van Buren's subversion to Jackson and other respectable motives of the president, infinite scandals broke out in those portions of the country which preferred reckless liberty to habits and responsibility.

Van Buren was proclaimed in Mississippi. The Smithsonian fund, of which the United States was trustee, was lost in Arkansas. Mr. Blair, who was the leading editor of the presidential organ at Washington, had left before he came from Kentucky, an advocate of wild cat banking in that State and of coercing the courts of justice to be creatures of a false banking system.

Van Buren, with brighter sense than these influences bequeathed to him, knew not how to extricate himself from the toils of old consistency.

He had been born of humble parents near the town of Kinderhook, in the Dutch settlement of Kinderhook, which derived its name from the first Dutch navigators, under Henry Hudson, sailing at the mouth of a creek some miles inland, and when the first came back from Albany they pointed out the headland of this creek, saying: "There is the kinder (children's) hook," hook meaning cape or point.

So in coming to the United States a Dutch-Yankee village called Kinderhook, and in that village Van Buren's father was a sort of farmer-keeper.

Immediately after the revolution an incident occurred which was the cause of the settlement of Kinderhook, and that was that the New Englanders, who were whalers, at once brought up the intelligence of the region, and young Van Buren entered a law office among them at the age of 14, and when he was 21 years old he was admitted to the bar at Hudson.

Jefferson was then President and Van Buren was a young man of 17, and he was declared that he owned 17 slaves of stock in the United States bank when he decided the charter of that bank to be constitutional. The charge was completely disproved, but a good many people believed it from love of mean believing.

Seven months after he became president, the president went to Berkeley Springs by carriage.

Near that time an anti-slavery convention was held in the midst of commotion at Altoz, Ill.

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This series of powerful endeavors and successes clearly established Van Buren as the ablest politician the country had seen, never resorting to Mr. Jefferson's methods of misrepresenting an opponent.

He did believe, however, in using the public patronage as a political instrumentality, for Van Buren had observed that politics is a livelihood as well as a knighthood. Conse-

quently one of his subordinates, Mr. Marcy, made use of the expression which is quoted to the present day: "To the victors belong the spoils."

Old men, however, say that the Van Buren regency never was corrupt; that they consulted public opinion and the personal fidelity of their appointees, and that their appointed men had to be both popular and loyal.

Among the youthful admirers of Van Buren, who lived but a few miles from his abode at Kinderhook, was Samuel Tilden, the son of a country merchant who had assisted to build the Boston & Albany railroad. Mr. Tilden told me that Van Buren was the ablest and most accomplished man he had ever known in politics.

President Van Buren's private secretary was his son, Abraham Van Buren. In the White House Van Buren was a widower, like Jefferson, and was especially noted for his cordial and equal life he led with his boys, some of whom had positive genius.

He gave to the White House that perfect gentility, high breeding and regard for opponents that he probably never knew in his life. The beginning of a fine and proper manner, such as are now enforced at the White House, was with President Van Buren.

When his message was delivered, in the fall of 1837, it was carried to Baltimore in

one hour and 48 minutes by rider, with 70 pounds of copies. From Baltimore to Washington it went by railroad in one hour and 56 minutes. Thence it was carried by horse and stage to the city of Washington, where it arrived in 11 hours after it departed from Washington. Then another rider, using six horses, carried it to Trenton in one hour and 20 minutes. It got to Boston in 24 hours from Washington.

That in transitage needed a gentleman to give it some correction, for hardly had John Marshall been in his grave when a South Carolina public man, William Smith, declared that he owned 17 slaves of stock in the United States bank when he decided the charter of that bank to be constitutional. The charge was completely disproved, but a good many people believed it from love of mean believing.

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The Richmond & Fredericksburg railroad was opened, and at first paid 15 per cent. The banks of New York in 1837 were 95 in number, and had more than \$95,000,000. Silas Wright was the main reliance in the Senate of Mr. Van Buren, and defended his independent treasury proposition.

The curious state of political forces can be instanced from the fact that when the Mississippi State commissioners undertook to examine the dishonest banks there, the banks refused permission, on the ground that "they doubted the constitutionality of the Legislature from which the commissioners derived their powers."

Everybody had set himself up for a Supreme Court with partial and prejudiced Congress having wagged their tongues so long about a United States bank not being constitutional.

In 1839 President Van Buren went in his carriage to Kinderhook, and thence to Reading, Easton and New York. His home reception at Hudson city was perhaps the first outpouring of the new race of Empire State people to see one of their own made public men. The Albany artillery attended and the president rode in a barouche, and the procession was a mile long, the greatest seen in that region since Lafayette's visit. The president announced that he meant to close his life in his native village if he could control the matter.

Many of the Federalists called on Van Buren considerably, for he and Henry Clay had been friends.

At Kinderhook, near the close of July, there was a great procession and the President went on to Albany, where Governor Marcy addressed him with high respect.

Van Buren lies buried in the cemetery at Kinderhook, under a plain granite obelisk.

In the vicinity of that town he bought a residence which he called Lindenwald, and after his death it was sold as his home. The Albany people had been the practice of law and his official salary a considerable independent, amounting, it is said, to near \$300,000.

In 1838 he sent Admiral Wilkes on his exploring expedition, and visited the capes of the Chesapeake and the mountain streams. In his administration steamers were running on most of the rivers, and the steamers carried mail and passengers, and the ground stages. There were near the close of his term some 2300 miles of railroad in operation. In that year (1840) we read the following curious announcement:

"Oliver Ames of West Bridgewater, Mass., commenced life by making a dozen shovels, which he took to market in a wagon. He now owns three extensive factories at Easton, Braintree, West Bridgewater, and Boston, and has four teams to carry his shovels to market. His profits are \$20,000 annually."

In this same newspaper is seen the notice that the City of Alexandria, Va., by a large majority had voted to nullify the Federal district and return to the Commonwealth, whereby she lost all her interest in the improvements of Washington after slavery was terminated.

The Massachusetts and New Jersey railroads were paying 9 per cent. It is said, and some other railroads 14 per cent.

When Amos Kendall resigned from the Post Office he made public the statement: "Not having been fortunate enough to accumulate wealth in public office, I am under the necessity of resorting to private employment. Messrs. Blair and Rives have kindly offered me the position of editor of the *Extra Globe*, to which I shall be a contributor."

In reality Mr. Kendall was getting ready to organize the telegraph business of the country, which he did under his old postmaster-generalship—the initial line having been stretched from Washington to Baltimore by government aid. He died, after the civil war, a rich man.

At that time Mississippi was the greatest cotton growing State in the Union, but its bank notes were quoted at 60 per cent. ad val

